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COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
21 January-1 February 1991
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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Follow-up to decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its session in 1989

Report submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

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Note

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its session 1981, decided that "quadrennial reports to be submitted by non-governmental organizations for its session should be limited to no more than two pages single-spaced". Furthermore, the Committee at its session in 1989, stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

Pursuant to the above decisions, the Secretariat, in January 1990, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of the quadrennial report (see annex).

The material issued in this series of documents is reproduced, as submitted, by the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II, and therefore reflects their policies and terminology and not necessarily those of the United Nations.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

CONTENTS

Page

I. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPH 16 4

1. African Association of Education for Development (AFASED) 5

2. African Institute of Private International Law 9

3. Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público (ASIP) 11

4. Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem 13

5. Balkan-ji-Bari International 15

6. Inuit Circumpolar Conference 17

7. Mutual Assistance of the Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL) 20

8. St. Joan's International Alliance 23

9. World Federation of Development Financing Institutions 27

II. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPH 17 28

10. Association for Childhood Education International 29

III. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPHS 20 AND 21 31

11. Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs (FITAC) 32

12. International Union of Young Christian Democrats (IUYCD) 33

Annex. GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPLETION OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS 34

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READEX FICHE

I. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPH 16

At its session in 1989, the Committee requested several organizations that had failed to submit reports for the period 1984-1987, to provide them within three months. It decided to review the reports of the organizations at its session in 1991 and agreed that, in accordance with past practice, those organizations that failed to submit a report within the specified time would automatically have their consultative status with the Council withdrawn.

The International Hotel Association failed to submit its report within the specified time.

The following organizations submitted reports, which are reproduced below:

African Association of Education for Development (AFASED)

African Institute of Private International Law

Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público

Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem

Balkan-ji-Bari International

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

Mutual Assistance of the Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL)

St. Joan's International Alliance

World Federation of Development Financing Institutions.

1. AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (AFASED)

(Category II)

The aim of the African Association of Education for Development (AFASED), a not-for-profit Pan-African non-governmental organization, is to inform and educate the general public in Africa with regard to development problems by disseminating relevant information and promoting popular participation in the development process.

In addition to the publication of the periodical Famille et Développement, the Association organizes educational and training seminars and undertakes applied research.

The Association has the following organs:

The General Assembly (which meets every two years)

The Governing Council (which meets once a year)

The Bureau (which meets at least once a year)

The Auditors

AFASED is organized in national sections in the following member countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Zaire.

Publications

(a) Famille et Développement: Periodical, of which the main headings cover the concerns of population, family, development, health, formal and non-formal education, promotion of craft work, international exchanges, NGO forums, traditional medicine and scientific information.

Between January 1984 and December 1988, Nos. 36-51 of Famille et Développement were issued.

(b) Index to Famille et Développement. An analytical, thematic, author and subject index covering the first 12 years of Famille et Développement (1974-1986).

Seminars, symposiums and conferences

These meetings have contributed to raising the consciousness of officials and individuals and motivating them with regard to development problems.

AFASED has organized such meetings itself as well as having participated in meetings organized by other institutions.

Meetings organized by AFASED

Workshop-seminar for planning officials from planning ministries in French-speaking African countries (Dakar, March 1984)

Seminar on educating the family in the context of population problems (Yaoundé, 11-16 June 1984)

Seminar on the use of audio-visual materials for family welfare and mass education (Lomé, 18-29 March 1985)

Conference-debate on the integration of traditional medicine into primary health care (Lomé, 30 March 1985)

Seminar-Workshop on AFASED audio-visual communication network (Lomé, 18-26 November 1985)

Day of reflection on African countries debt (Lomé, 3 March 1986)

Seminar on "Women, health and communication" (Lomé, 5-14 September 1988)

AFASED participation in seminars and symposiums

Second African Population Conference (Arusha, January 1984)

Conference on Arab solidarity with the struggle against apartheid (Tunis, 7-9 April 1984)

Ministerial conference on desertification (Dakar, 17-28 July 1984)

Seminar on "Women, communication and development: the prospects for Nairobi" (Dakar, 1-10 October 1984)

Seminar on management training organized by the North-South Group (Quebec, 4-9 November 1984)

Seminar on "Health and rural community development" (Turin, 27 November-8 December 1984)

African conference on gerontology, organized by the Paris Institute of Gerontology (Dakar, 10-15 December 1984)

Seminar on "Desertification and reafforestation", organized by CONGAD (Senegal) and UNDP (Dakar, 25-27 February 1985)

Joint URTNA-Johns Hopkins University seminar on the use of radio in family health (Dakar, 18-22 February 1985)

Forum on the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, July 1985)

IPD seminar on the study of training needs (Lomé, July-August 1985)

Special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa (New York, August 1986)

IPD network seminar on the organization of the rural world (Niamey, August 1986)

Meeting of the Bureau of NGO members of CONGO (Geneva, November 1986)

Working group on the planned African NGO network (Nairobi, November 1986)

Symposium on the family in black Africa: organized by the African Cultural Society (African Presence) (Yaoundé, April 1987)

Regional seminar on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children in Africa (Addis Ababa, April 1987)

Seminar on human rights organized by the United Nations (Lomé, 5-7 April 1988)

Day of reflection on rural African youth: current status and future prospects (Lomé, 11-15 October 1988)

External relations

(a) Relations with United Nations system organs

AFASED receives United Nations documents and records on a regular basis.

The Association regularly pays its contributions to the UNICEF NGO Committee; however the financial situation does not permit frequent participation in meetings at Geneva, Vienna or New York.

WHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA and UNESCO regularly receive Famille et Développement, and AFASED, in turn, receives their documents and reports.

In the period under consideration, financial support was received from the latter agencies for the organization of seminars and the printing of various special editions of Famille et Développement.

(b) Relations with regional agencies

AFASED co-operates actively with several international NGOs in the region:

IPPF: International Planned Parenthood Federation and its branches in the member countries of AFASED

IPD: Pan-African Institute for Development (Douala), and with IPD/AOS (Ouagadougou)

INADES-FORMATION: African Institute for Economic and Social Development (Abidjan)

ENDA: Environment and development in the third world (Dakar)

CIFAD-INTER: International Committee of African Women for Development (Abidjan)

FOVAD: Forum of African Volunteer Development Organizations (Dakar)

Relations with international partners

In 1984 AFASED and its periodical Famille et Développement received grants from the following international agencies:

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (Ottawa)

Ford Foundation (Dakar)

Action de Carême des Catholiques Suisses (Luzern)

Department of Development Co-operation for Humanitarian Assistance (DDA) (Berne)

Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) (Stockholm)

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) (Ottawa)

The number of donors has dwindled and, by the end of 1988, only three remained: IRDC, DDA and CIDA.

2. AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Category II)

Activities of the Institute

1984 to 1986:

The African Institute of Private International Law has endeavoured to harmonize private law in Africa, particularly by: (a) preparing a study on problems relating to limits on discretion in commercial contracts between Africa and other parts of the world; (b) holding courses in African international trade law; and (c) compiling documentation on the national and international trade law of the African countries.

With the aid of such a programme of activities, the Institute could provide Africa with a working instrument that it urgently needs. The importance of such a commitment is illustrated by the difficulties that continually arise, both among the African countries themselves and between African countries and the rest of the world, owing to a lack of co-ordination and co-operation in legal matters.

1984 to 1985:

The Institute worked towards effecting its purposes (Statute, article II, paragraph 2 (1)); and held the International Conference on Peace and Human Rights at Lomé, Togo, from 14 to 18 January. The goal of the Conference, which was attended by 185 delegates from various regions of the world or representing various international organizations, was to demonstrate the relationship between the observance of human rights and peace.

1986 to 1987 (1988-1989):

The most recent progress made in the consideration of topics relating to development and the most practical methods for implementing them lends emphasis to the key nature, in this context, of health issues, seen from both the social and economic points of view and particularly in the light of their direct impact on the human factor, a fundamental resource in any development process.

Despite the favourable results achieved after years of effort to control various diseases, particularly major epidemics, it cannot be claimed that in Africa, efforts devoted to the field of public health have resulted in adequate security; that is precisely because it has too often been forgotten that disease diminishes the value of the individual's main source of wealth, which is his labour.

Other goals of the Institute are to conduct research and programming studies with a view to facilitating the African countries' economic and social development, and to carry out any other activity that will help to effect its purposes (Statute, article II, paragraph 2 (f) and (m)).

In response to requests made on a number of occasions by representatives of countries Members of the Organization and eminent experts, for some time the Institute has been sponsoring and promoting initiatives for the establishment of a network of integrated, comprehensive health clinics in the African countries.

It is important not to forget the decisive role that can be played by comprehensive health clinics in rural areas in standard and basic training, even involving various types of volunteer participation, particularly by paramedical staff, who are a key component of the "community medicine" system and whose education and training must be both planned and provided for in the context of the community, taking account of both institutions and local requirements.

It is thus essential to recognize that an effective, properly co-ordinated network of health clinics is also important for the analysis of the factors that have a most decisive impact on the food situation, and consequently on the incidence of disease in the various regions concerned. An integrated research programme to meet such requirements - which would deal with a variety of problems arising in the field of human and veterinary medicine, environmental hygiene, traditional medicine and agronomy, and which would build on various types of experience, taking account of differences between one area and another, with a view to establishing common parameters regarding behaviour and approaches in health, social and economic matters - could prove to be of decisive importance for the practical implementation of the "community medicine" system.

The 1982 Venice Conference, convened as a result of an initiative taken by the Institute, which dealt with the topic of the harmonization of maritime legislation of the African countries in keeping with the Lomé Convention, resulted in a set of initiatives taken by the Institute to stress maritime issues in a multi-disciplinary context. By means of a series of seminars, the Institute drew the attention of jurists and marine biologists to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which led to the establishment of the Free University of the Mediterranean at Trapani and the International Faculty of Law and Science of the Sea.

3. ASOCIACIÓN INTERAMERICANA E IBÉRICA DE PRESUPUESTO PÚBLICO (ASIP)

(Category II)

The following important information for the period in question is based on the reports submitted on the Association's activities at the Interamerican and Iberian Public Budgeting Seminars.

In accordance with the articles of association in force, the Executive Council of ASIP, elected for the period 1983/84, was renewed in December 1984 for the new biennium. Accordingly, the seventh special meeting of the Deliberative Council was convened and held in the city of Belo Horizonte on 9 and 10 December 1984. The Minister of Finance of Ecuador, an economist, was re-elected Chairman of the Executive Council. A first and second Vice-Chairman (from Brazil and Mexico, respectively) were also elected.

At the ninth regular session of the Council, held at Buenos Aires on 2 July 1986, new officers were elected.

During this period amendments were made to the articles of association and the work was completed at the ninth special session.

Training and technical assistance

From 27 to 29 May 1984 the Regional Seminar on Policies and Public Funds as they Relate to Financial Crises, organized by the programming and budgeting secretariat under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Mexican Public Budget Association and this Association, was held at Mexico City. This Seminar was intended for officials of Central American and Caribbean States and those of the Andean Pact.

The following meetings were also held: the Seminar on Modern Planning and Control Techniques, as part of the agreement concluded with the Autonomous University of Nuevo León; and the Seminar on Planning and Budgeting, as part of the agreement concluded with the Autonomous University of Baja California.

From 28 to 30 November 1984, in conjunction with the Board of the Cartageña Agreement and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Seminar on the Role of the Public Sector in the Economic Upturn of the Andean Countries was held at Lima. This event led to the signing of a technical complementarity agreement between ASIP and ILPES.

In May 1986, an agreement on technical co-operation for the development of financial and budgeting information systems for the public sector was signed between the Association and the Auditor General of Ecuador. The purposes of this agreement are, inter alia, to establish permanent machinery for technical co-operation and co-ordination for improving the operation of the planning, budgeting, accounting and governmental control systems.

The training activities carried out during the period of June 1985 to May 1986 are as follows:

(a) Course on modernization of the budgeting process, held at Quito, from 28 October to 8 November 1985, with the collaboration of the Budget Office of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit;

(b) Course on project implementation, held from 7 October to 22 November 1985 in Mexico City, sponsored by the Department of Programming and Budgeting of Mexico, OAS and the Mexican Public Budgeting Association;

(c) National Budgeting Seminar, held at Buenos Aires, organized by the Argentine Public Budgeting Association, from 27 to 29 November 1985. Our association collaborated by sending senior members of the Deliberative Council and the Executive Secretariat, with submissions;

(d) Seminar on the updating of Budgeting Techniques, organized in Panama City from 21 April to 2 May 1986, with the support of the Ministry of Economic Planning of Panama and the Panamanian Budgeting Association;

(e) Seminar on Municipal Budgeting, organized in Mexico City in conjunction with the Department of Programming and Budgeting of Mexico, OAS and the Mexican Public Budgeting Association.

In addition, the 12th, 13th and 16th Interamerican and Iberian Public Budgeting Seminars were held at Madrid (June 1984), San José (June 1985), and Buenos Aires (July 1986).

At all these seminars regular and special meetings were held dealing with subjects relevant to the progress of the Institution, and note was also taken of the various activities carried out by the national associations, an aspect which was important because these associations disseminated data on the budget techniques and procedures in their respective countries.

Documentation and exchanges

Information Bulletins, Series 5, were prepared for the quarter September to December 1984, and Series 6 for the period January to April 1985.

The articles in No. 18 of the ASIP Review were completed and subsequently distributed.

In addition, the bulletins of the third year summarizing the activities carried out from May to December 1985 were prepared.

Finally, as the activities were coming to a close at the end of 1986, the Quito office did not develop a programme that year, as it had been doing, since it was making preparations for the transfer to Buenos Aires, which took place in June 1987.

4. ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE WORLD REFUGEE PROBLEM

(Category II)

The Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) engages in a considerable amount of scientific work. Annual study congresses were held between 1984 and 1987 on the following subjects:

1984 Xenophobia, with particular attention to the problems of social, cultural and economic integration (Bonn)

1985 Problems of third world refugees (Urbino, Italy)

1986 Refugees and Europe (Strasbourg, France)

1987 Contribution of refugees to the host country (Trieste, Italy)

An average of 120 persons attended each congress. They included university professors, social workers and representatives of international agencies, Governments and voluntary associations. Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees participated actively in the work.

The annual study congresses produced an important document: Fundamental Principles of a European Refugee Law submitted at Feldkirch- draft European Refugee Convention; this was transmitted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all international agencies as well as to interested Governments.

The main studies carried out by the international committees of experts of AWR and by various associations are contained in the quarterly Bulletin AWR published by Braumüller (Vienna) in four languages (English, French, German and Italian). They deal with legal affairs, international refugees, documentation, statistics, terminology and bibliography, youth, integration, foreign workers, sociology and health as shown below in a partial list.

Identitätsprobleme südostasiatischer Flüchtlinge in der Schweiz

Identity and personality of refugee women

Manifestly unfounded claims for asylum or refugee status

Le réfugié et l'émigrant dans le cadres des droits et libertés fondamentaux

Rechtsfragen der Fremdenfeindlichkeit (Xenophobie) nach Völkerrecht und innerstaatlichem Recht

African refugees and xenophobia

Procedures at borders, detention, refoulement and extradition

Xenophobie und Integration in Schweden

Flüchtlingsfragen in Südwestafrika/Namibia

The problem of "legal and illegal aliens" from Mozambique in the Republic of South Africa

Les réfugiés et les migrants du tiers monde dans les pays industrialisés

Norme concernenti i diritti e le garnzie dei richiedenti asilo e lo status di rifugiato

Les problèmes des réfugiés dans le monde en 1986 et 1987

Rifugiati e diritti umani

Juridical structures of refugee and migration questions

Un'esperienza di lavoro in Italia con i rifugiati provenienti dal terzo mondo

Refugee problems of the third world - from an Australian perspective.

AWR also publishes the series entitled Treatises on Refugee Problems. Both the series and the Bulletin AWR are sent regularly to the Economic and Social Council.

The various national sections of AWR sometimes publish books on refugee problems.

In order to interest young people in refugee topics, Youth Groups, bringing together experts and social workers under the age of 30, have been established in several National Sections.

AWR has not only participated regularly in the working meetings of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees but has also had contacts with the various voluntary agencies concerned with refugee problems and with the Migration, Refugees and Demography Committee of the Council of Europe.

5. BALKAN-JI-BARI INTERNATIONAL

(Category II)

Balkan-ji-Bari International (BJBI) is an organization of several non-profit, non-political, national and international voluntary and professional associations and individuals concerned with child and youth welfare, working for their physical, mental, social and spiritual welfare, with the faith that through children only peace can be achieved. It does not believe in discrimination of caste, creed, colour, sex or race, and strongly encourages the formation of a brotherhood in which all people are considered to be equal human beings.

The motto of the organization is "Education and Entertainment", and its emblem is a red rose. It seeks to provide children and youths with a happy, joyous and cheerful environment, enabling them to live a fuller life and develop a harmonious personality. It instils in them the spirit of sharing, or better still, giving rather than taking. Meetings and gatherings, picnics and excursions, trips and tours of children and youths are organized. It encourages Pen-Friendship correspondence between children and youths of different countries. It adheres to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, has prepared "Dictums" on children's responsibilities, and imperative needs of the youth, and a Guide for child and youth welfare workers.

In keeping with the United Nations ideals for the care and development of children, BJBI, through its various branches and associations, has taken concrete steps for the development of children and youth:

(a) Camps and vocational training courses have been organized in different towns/cities in various states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Dehli and Bihar;

(b) Various programmes and courses have been arranged on environment and ecology, minimizing of pollution, etc.;

(c) Children and youth are encouraged to participate in cultural programmes through music, dance and drama;

(d) Sports and physical training are organized by the centres;

(e) Camps are organized for cleaning slums in some cities and the residents are taught to live a clean life. They are taught regarding cleanliness, nutrition, health, hygiene and the proper bringing up of children.

Some BJBI centres have adopted villages where children, youth and women were given simple education and made aware of leading a healthy and clean life. Women were also taught simple stitching, handicrafts and also told about nutritious foods.

Many of the children, particularly those living in uncongenial environments, such as slums and chawls in the cities, and huts and cottages in the rural areas, find outlets here for self-expression and for creative activities. BJBI has a Sponsorship Department, under which programme children of poor parents in need of

financial assistance are aided by persons from any part of the world. The plan permits the child to stay with his own family, and yet makes him feel that someone far away cares for him and wants to help him in his studies, health hazards, and other essential requirements.

In the state of Bihar there is an Ashram for weaker sections of society where about 700 children are residing. Child welfare workers from various branches of BJBI and also from other countries, go and live there and work with the children. The Ashram has considerable land for cultivation, where fruits, vegetables and some cereals are grown; these are used by the inmates and are sold to neighbouring villagers. Thus, workers and children work together and also learn agricultural skills.

Another activity is the digging of wells. Some volunteers help to develop new methods for digging wells. The volunteers are from some European countries and from the United States. The Ashram is visited by social workers from some developing countries also. BJBI and the Ashram work in close co-ordination for training of child welfare workers.

In December 1987 a Diamond Jubilee Function of the BJBI was organized in Nadiad (Gujarat State). More than 1,200 children, workers from various branches and associations, the Executive Director and other persons from the area participated. Competitions for children were organized in singing, dancing, essay-writing, elocution competition, etc.

To achieve its objectives, BJBI co-operates with the neighbouring people and national and international associations. It concentrates on working out integrated acitivities dealing mainly with the growth and development, nutrition and enjoyment of children and youth. It has prepared the basis of personal contacts for exchanging ideas, issues, experiences and problems, and training in the above-mentioned subjects through correspondence, programmes, courses, meetings, conferences, seminars and symposia.

BJBI works actively for the welfare of children and youth in accordance with the principles of United Nations Economic and Social Council and the UNICEF.

6. INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

(Category II)

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) received consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1983. At present, it has its international headquarters in Kuujjuaq, Northern Quebec, Canada. Regional offices are located in Anchorage, Alaska; Ottawa, Canada; and Nuuk, Greenland. There are 18 delegates chosen by regional organizations in each of the three countries. These delegates appoint the six executive council members. ICC general assemblies are held every three years and thus far, four have been held: in Barrow, Alaska, 1977; in Nuuk, Greenland, 1980; in Iqaluit, Canada, 1983; and in Kotzebue, Alaska, 1986. Our next General Assembly will take place from 24 to 28 July 1989, in Sisimiut, Greenland. The 1989 Assembly theme is "A Celebration of Inuit Unity" and we expect to have Soviet Inuit participants present.

In early January 1984, the ICC met with the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to identify committees, commissions and other relevant United Nations representatives that the ICC could contact to inform them of our views, concerns and initiatives.

Since 1984, the ICC has worked co-operatively with the following indigenous non-governmental organizations: Indian Law Resource Center; National Indian Youth Council; International Indian Treaty Council; and the National Aboriginal and Islanders Legal Services. Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meetings have been organized in preparation for the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations. These meetings are held one week prior to the Working Group and they take place in the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The NGO Unit in Geneva assists in the assignment of rooms and logistics for interpreters.

Thus far, we have co-sponsored four Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meetings and participated in the 1984, 1985 and 1987 sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The preparatory meetings allow for a constructive dialogue and development of strategy in furthering the work of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in the drafting of a "Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights". The preparatory meetings are very successful and draw approximately 200 participants from all over the globe. We expect that they will continue throughout the life of the Working Group.

At the 1985 session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, four ICC representatives participated. We provided presentations on the issues facing Greenlanders and the developments of the Greenland Homerule Government; harvesting activities in Canada and the need for protection of the subsistence lifestyle and respect for traditional economies; and the status of Alaska Natives and land rights issues that face them.

In 1987, two ICC representatives participated in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations. That year we co-sponsored the preparatory meeting with only three other indigenous NGOs. The ICC President provided a review of the

progress and major initiatives of ICC. In addition, Thomas R. Berger, Commissioner, Alaska Native Review Commission, reported on the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission, on behalf of ICC. We have offered our full text of the Arctic Policy principles to the Working Group for consideration throughout their drafting work.

At the ICC's 1986 General Assembly the delegates adopted a resolution calling upon the United Nations to declare 1992 as the "Year of Indigenous Peoples of the World". The Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meeting adopted a similar resolution and formally submitted it to the Working Group.

During the 1987 session of the Working Group there was a great amount of discussion about the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the revision of Convention 107 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Populations. While in Geneva, we spoke to the ILO representative and learned how the ICC might be more directly involved in the ILO revision process.

In 1987 our application for inclusion on the Special List of NGOs at the ILO was approved, and we have been invited to the 75th and 76th proceedings of the ILO. We have also been active in organizing (in co-operation with other indigenous NGOs) indigenous peoples in preparation for the ILO proceedings. We are particularly concerned about the "integrationist" language of Convention 107. We will be working to amend Convention 107 in an effort to ensure that the language more accurately reflects the real aspirations of indigenous peoples and the current conditions that we face.

The access that indigenous peoples have to the ILO process is quite limited; however, it is important for us to participate to the extent that we can. We will be working to lobby ILO members to ensure that they are aware of the ICC's Arctic Policy principles and our general goals and objectives, and how they relate to the Convention 107 language.

ICC has also been involved in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). We have initiated the Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy (IRCS), modeled after the World Conservation Strategy (WCS). The WCS was prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), with the UNEP World Wildlife Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The IRCS is an attempt to blend together into one single plan the respective needs for modern-day development on many levels, as well as for sustainable traditional wildlife harvests and a growing Inuit autonomy. We are well into Phase II of the IRCS and have made substantial progress. ICC representatives participated in the Seventeenth Assembly of the IUCN and on 2 February 1988, our application for membership was approved. Also in 1988 we received the UNEP Global 500 Award for the IRCS project.

Through the ICC Commissions we have also participated in the work of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) conferences. We have tried to ensure that our views, concerns and rights are respected and become an integral part of the discussions and final decisions and policies of both IWC and CITES.

7. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OIL COMPANIES (ARPEL)

(Category II)

The Mutual Assistance of the Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL) was created on 2 October 1965 at the Third Conference of the Latin American Government Oil Companies at Rio de Janeiro. ARPEL represents the Petroleum Governmental Industry of Latin America and actually comprises 17 active member Companies of Latin America and one Affiliated Member: Petro Canada.

ARPEL aims at the economic and technical integration of Latin America through the study and recommendations of co-operation agreements among its members. For the fulfilment of these goals, ARPEL will:

(a) Encourage the exchange of information and technical assistance among its members;

(b) Study projects for (i) co-operation with international organizations; (ii) expansion of the Latin American oil industry; (iii) expansion of Latin American equipment and materials industries for the oil industry; (iv) preservation of hydrocarbon resources; (v) co-ordination of development programmes among its members; and (vi) development of commercial transactions among its members;

(c) Promote technical and scientific meetings, conferences and reunions for the study and discussion of subjects of mutual interest.

Items (i), (ii) and (iv) above are reasons for our relations with the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Item (iii) explains our analogy with UNIDO.

Regarding economic development, we keep close contact with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); with CINTERFOR (ILO), in subjects dealing with educational matters; and with OLADE in energy matters.

Relations with international organizations

UNIDO	The Industrial Development Board agreed at its eighth session to grant ARPEL consultative status in accordance with rule 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board.
Economic and Social Council	At its sixtieth session, on 14 May 1976, the Council decided to reclassify ARPEL to category II consultative status with it.

ALADI In September 1967, the Latin American Free Trade Association decided to grant category C status of private regional associations to ARPEL. Since 1980 the relations continued with ALADI: Latin American Integration Association, with which activities related to the integration in the areas of materials, equipment and services for the Oil Industry are carried on.

ARPEL is also closely related to ECLAC, CINTERFOR, ALAMAR, CIER, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Latin American Economic System, and many other international organizations. With most of them, collaboration and co-operation agreements have been signed.

Dissemination of United Nations information

ARPEL publishes information received from those branches of the United Nation/ related to exploration, exploitation, refinery, transportation, commerce and research of hydrocarbons and petrochemicals.

Conferences

Between 1984 and 1987 organization and programmes of the Association were discussed in four Ordinary Assemblies, and four Co-ordinator's Meetings. On matters such as exploration, production, computer application, marketing and other aspects of the oil industry, 14 Experts' Meetings were held. A sub-Andean Co-operative Hydrocarbon Project sponsored by the World Bank and Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation started and is under way, financed by the PCIAC with a budget of $Can 4,770,000.

We have also organized seminars on Natural Gas with the aid of Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) from Italy and on Insurance in the Oil Industry with the participation of the National Oil Company of Chile.

A joint study with the World Bank on the Role of Natural Gas in Latin America is in progress.

In May 1986 a great event was held in Buenos Aires: The I Congreso Latinoamericano de Hidrocarburos and the I Exposición de Bienes y Servicios para la Industria Petrolera en América Latina summoned together all the member Companies of ARPEL, besides the leading concerns serving the oil industry, from Latin America and abroad.

Publications

ARPEL publishes monthly the Boletin Informativo, dealing with specialist subjects related to the different areas of the petroleum activity in the member Companies. The Boletin Técnico is issued quarterly, and includes papers coming

from ARPEL's experts' meetings, abstracts of papers in English, Spanish and Portuguese and other papers considered of value.

During the reporting period ARPEL's General Secretariat, at its Headquarters at Montevideo, set computer facilities in order to provide member Companies with information related mainly to the areas of human resources and equipment, materials and services supplied to the oil industry.

8. ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

(Category II)

Acquisition of legal status

By Belgian Royal Decree of 31 December 1985, the Alliance obtained official recognition as an international organization. It has headquarters at Liège (quai Churchill 19/061). Its statutes were published in the Moniteur Belge on 31 July 1986.

Official publications and archives

(a) Periodicals. The Alliance publishes two periodicals which appear every three months: one, in English, The Catholic Citizen was founded in London in 1915; the other, in French, is L'Alliance. Both are sent free of charge to influential persons and important institutions in Europe and the third world, where they are read widely.

The English and American sections have continued to publish their three-monthly bulletin on national affairs.

(b) A historic document. In December 1985, the American section published an English translation of the first official petition to the supreme authorities of the Roman Catholic Church demanding the priesthood for women. In May 1962 a member of the Alliance, a Swiss lawyer, Gertrud Heinzelmann, conveyed this strongly argued demand to the Preparatory Commission of the Vatican Council II in reply to the announcement of the Council made by Pope John XXIII. Published in German, with contributions in English and German by five other theologians of the Alliance on that subject, it caused a sensation in the Christian world.

(c) Archives and publications. Since the foundation of the Alliance in 1911, these have been valuable for the study of feminism. The Fawcett Library in London specializes in feminist questions. It is very well equipped, maintains its documents and allows researchers to consult them.

Activities related to the United Nations

(a) The representative of the Alliance at the United Nations and the assistant representative have continued their activities in New York, attending the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations and the Catholic Centre for International Organizations. The excellence of the work of the representative in this field was publicly emphasized in New York by Cardinal Casaroli, Secretary of State for the Vatican, who had come to read a message from the Pope to the United Nations General Assembly celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Charter. At the Centre for International Catholic Organizations, the Cardinal, in his statement on the importance of representatives of International Catholic Organizations (ICO) at the United Nations singled out the

Alliance representative among all the delegates and said: "She is an excellent ICO delegate." (21 October 1985)

(b) Vienna Forum (October 1984) in preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. The preparatory documents for the Nairobi Forum made no provision for any meeting on the subject, "Women and religion". The representative of the Alliance suggested that such a meeting should be held. At an unofficial meeting of some 30 women of all beliefs or non-beliefs who discussed this suggestion, in the presence of one of the organizers of the Forum, nearly all the women supported the proposal, which was in fact carried out at Nairobi.

(c) Conference and Forum at Nairobi. The Alliance representative at Nairobi, made a number of remarkable statements to the Forum on the subject, "Women and religion". Other members of the Alliance took part in very different roles in the work of Nairobi.

(d) Ratification of United Nations conventions

By a decision of its General Assembly (Milan, 1986) endorsing a previous resolution, the Alliance addressed to the Holy See a new request that it should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In many communications it was stressed that the Convention was in perfect harmony with the doctrine of Vatican Council II, which in its decree Gaudium et Spes opposed any discrimination based on race, class, caste, social origin or sex.

On numerous occasions, and again at its General Assembly in 1986, in a special resolution, the Alliance exhorted all its sections and its individual members to pressure their Governments to accede to this Convention if they had not already done so.

The United States section of the Alliance made strenuous efforts along these lines: official letters to the President, to the various federal authorities concerned, articles and so on. This work paralleled the highly organized campaign conducted by our members in the United States to bring about the constitutional amendment on equal rights for women.

The regrettable fact of the non-ratification by the Holy See of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others has been widely published as a result of our activities in the world of Catholic associations and our contacts with various ecclesiastical authorities. We hope that further activities may lead the Vatican to reconsider this question.

Activities related to UNESCO

The representative of the Alliance at UNESCO, and President of section (France), has participated regularly in the activities of the organization in Paris and also in those of the Catholic Centre for UNESCO, which consists of some 25 Catholic non-governmental organizations accredited to it.

International Catholic Organizations

At the ICO Conference of which the Alliance is an associate member, Alliance delegates took an active and regular part in the discussions; one delegate represented the Alliance at the General Assembly of this Conference at Barcelona (1986), thus multiplying the contacts for the worldwide advancement of women in society and in the Church itself.

At the Fondation Belpaire (today known as the Foyer International Catholique, at Brussels), our delegates were also very active. This is a centre, independent of the ICO Conference, established many years ago in Brussels, and a meeting place for all the ICO delegates. More than one half of the ICO affiliated to the Conference have their headquarters in Belgium. This important centre organizes monthly meetings in which our Alliance regularly participates.

A delegate is in regular contact for the Alliance with the International Movement of Catholic Intellectuals "Pax Romana" (IMIC), participating actively in the meetings and discussions. She attended the General Assembly of 1987 (Rome) and on the occasion of the end of the Decade of Women and, in reply to a questionnaire sent on the subject by IMIC, she sent out a document of 29 pages. In this document she regrets the inadequate way in which many Catholic bodies had promoted the International Women's Year and the United Nations Decade for Women and put forward positive suggestions.

Social and political work

(a) Follow-up of Nairobi

In preparation for, and coverage of, the end of the Decade, many newspapers, periodicals, radio and television networks and various associations, have spoken of the problem of the advancement of women. Everywhere, the sections and individual members of the Alliance have initiated similar efforts or have played an important role in them. The Alliance has given to them competence, experience and broader horizons in this field.

Everywhere, members of the Alliance have spoken of our gratitude to all those who initiated and organized this splendid enterprise and all who worked at the United Nations, in the Government of Kenya and in the associations of African women. We stressed the organizing competence and the warm generosity of the Nairobi women.

(b) Other social activities

Australia. The international president (1983-1986) of the Alliance was appointed Honorary Life Member of the National Council of Women of Queensland, in appreciation of her international work on behalf of women (1985). The international Vice-President is one of the promoters of the Women's Action Alliance, a feminist pressure group which she founded. The National Agenda for Women (a 1986 governmental initiative for the "Forward-looking Strategies" of

Nairobi) has been a rallying point for all Australian women. The section co-operates in an association for the development of the peoples of the South Pacific.

United States. Besides its efforts on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment, the section has played a very active and appreciated role in the national consultations organized by the Catholic bishops with a view to the preparation of a "Letter from the American bishops to women" in which the social aspects of the advancement of women were to be tackled in depth.

Europe. The National Councils of Women, through their pluralism, influence and organization, provide an effective channel for our suggestions. We co-operate in their discussions, inquiries and research.

As everywhere, our influence for the advancement of women is also exercised by activities with religious bodies and groups of Catholic women or ecumenical groups. We participate actively in many friendly meetings of Islam-Christian women or Islam-Judaeo-Christian women. Among our members who have been given teaching posts in faculties of theology, we may mention C. Halkes (Netherlands), who has become professor of "Feminism and Religion" at Nimegen, the only Catholic university which has created such a Chair in its faculty of theology, and U. King (Great Britain), a specialist in Hinduism, who was appointed Professor of "Non-Christian Religion" at that university. One of our former presidents of section (Federal Republic of Germany) is maintaining her contacts with the leading authorities of the eastern Orthodox churches.

The personal initiatives taken by our Italian members are very numerous. The advancement of women within religious institutions and practices are for us a prime objective. Our efforts have been redoubled on the occasion of the Roman Synod on Lay Persons (1987). These activities will not be described here.

Final comments

Our influence in the Catholic world goes far beyond our numbers. This is because we have spoken out competently and respectfully in a controversial field.

The Alliance, the only feminist organization recognized by the Vatican, is irreplaceable. If it disappeared or if it is lost its status in the ICO Conference, it is unlikely that any other group with similar aims would receive such recognition from Rome.

9. WORLD FEDERATION OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCING INSTITUTIONS

(Category II)

In line with its tradition, the activities of WFDFI are grouped in various categories:

(a) Exchange of information between the three regional associations on topics such as: co-ordination with commercial banking, new forms of guarantee, financing, information on investments in development projects, etc. For this purpose publications prepared by the three regional associations were exchanged on topics and projects of common interest;

(b) As a result of the work done to make WFDFI known to various development financing institutions throughout the world new members have been enlisted: six temporary regional members (one Egyptian, one Greek and four Spanish) and one special member (Spanish); there have been numerous proposals for collaborating with the Federation;

(c) Co-ordination with other international bodies. WFDFI collaborated actively with other international bodies, with which it has negotiated, or is negotiating, consultative status, as well as agreements on collaboration and observer status. These bodies include, in particular, the United Nations, UNIDO, UNCTAD, the Inter-American Bank, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, FAO and the United States Agency for International Development.

Meetings were held for the purpose of establishing the European and Arab associations of industrial development financing companies with a view to associating them with WFDFI.

At the third General Assembly of WFDFI, held at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, (February 1986), some seminars were held on the topic "External indebtedness. Is it an indispensable condition for development?"

At the Council of Governors, held at Madrid on 20 September 1985, an Action Programme for 1985-1986 was adopted on the following items: information between the regional associations; training of professionals of the Development Bank; promoting WFDFI in other institutions; co-ordination with other international bodies; and publications.

Among the aims of WFDFI for the next few years, the following are important:

(a) Preparation of a directory of industrial development financing companies;

(b) Compilation of an international guide of machinery and transport equipment manufacturers and exporters; consultancy firms for industry and resources; and financiers for industry and exports.

II. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPH 17

At its session in 1989, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the following organizations, which had failed to submit additional information on their reports for the period 1982-1985, should be reclassified from category II to the Roster:

Association for Childhood Education International

International Christian Union of Business Executives (UNIAPAC)

Studies and Expansion Society - International Scientific Association

The Committee requested the organizations to submit to it in 1991 a detailed report on their activities for the period 1986-1989, on the understanding that failure to do so would cause withdrawal of consultative status. (See E/1989/40, para. 17.)

No report was submitted by the International Christian Union of Business Executives and the Studies and Expansion Society - International Scientific Association.

The report submitted by the Association for Childhood Education International is reproduced below.

10. ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

(Roster)

The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) was founded as the International Kindergarten Union (IKU) on 25 July 1892 in Saratoga Springs, New York, during a meeting of the National Education Association. The charter membership consisted of 30 kindergarten educators. In 1931 the IKU merged with the National Council of Primary Education (NCPE) to form the Association for Childhood Education. An emerging interest in the educational well-being of young children augmented the earlier emphasis on improving the kindergarten experience. The original global concern of the IKU also continued. In 1946, immediately following the Second World War, the word "International" was added to the Association's name. Concern for the welfare and education of children in war-torn countries throughout the world was among the factors that led to this development. This universal mission has continued to the present.

The purposes of the Association internationally are:

To promote the inherent rights, education and well-being of all children in home, school and community

To work for desirable conditions, programmes and practices for children from infancy through early adolescence

To bring into active co-operation all individuals and groups concerned with children

To raise the standard of preparation for all of those actively involved with the care and development of children

To encourage continuous professional growth of educators

To focus the attention of the public on the rights and needs of children and the ways in which various programmes must be adjusted to fit those rights and needs

The Association currently has a total of 15,000 members world wide. This includes 10,000 professional educators, 1,600 teacher education students and 3,400 colleges, universities and school systems; 31 nations are represented.

Association activities

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

On 13 November 1989 the Association made an official request to President Bush to exercise affirmative leadership for adoption of the Convention by the United Nations. The President's leadership and support for subsequent ratification of the Convention by the United States was also requested.

The United States and UNESCO

During 1990 the Association's Board of Directors will take action on defining the Association's role in advocating the United States rejoining UNESCO.

Representation

The representative of ACEI in New York attends meetings and reports to Association Headquarters on activities that need to be brought to the attention of the membership.

International conferences sponsored by ACEI

1986

March: Greensboro, North Carolina, United States of America
June: London

1987

April/May: Omaha, Nebraska, United States of America

1988

April: Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America

1989

April: Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America
July: Taipei, Taiwan Province of China

III. INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1989/40, PARAGRAPHS 20 AND 21

At its session in 1989, the Committee noted that the information provided by the Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs and by the International Union of Young Christian Democrats on their activities for the period 1984-1987 (see E/C.2/1989/2/Add.1) was not sufficient and requested the organizations to submit additional information within three months. (See E/1989/40, paras. 20 and 21.)

The information provided by the organizations is reproduced below.

11. INTER-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TOURING AND AUTOMOBILE CLUBS (FITAC)

(Category II)

The President of the organization communicated the following:

Unfortunately, the Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs (FITAC) has not participated in any of the meetings convened by the United Nations. The economic crisis affecting most of the countries of America, and hence the clubs constituting the Federation, has been the main reason for our inability to attend such important events. Nevertheless, we are convinced that, in the near future, the amelioration of the aforesaid crisis will enable us to participate actively in the interesting meetings promoted consistently by that prestigious international body. As you can understand, the reasons given are weighty ones and, I am sure, valid for the purpose of supporting the Federation's right to retain its consultative status.

12. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (IUYCD)

(Category II)

Main activities of the Union

Commission on Human Rights in Geneva

The International Union of Young Christian Democrats (IUYCD) participated in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights between 1985 and 1987 and remains active in its work. Between 1985 and 1987, IUYCD made statements on the cases of Chile, Nicaragua and South Africa. It has been an observer in the Commission on Human Rights since the beginning of 1988 and has always attended its meetings in Geneva. The IUYCD's permanent representative at Geneva is accredited to the United Nations.

Special Committee against Apartheid

The Union's position is very clear. IUYCD has always condemned apartheid and the policy of the South African Government. At all its congresses, this organization has unambiguously reaffirmed its position on racial discrimination and has expressed its support for the democratic struggle of the anti-apartheid organizations. It participated in the world conference of youth against apartheid organized by UNESCO several years ago and it has sent messages to the Special Committee against Apartheid.

In the past IUYCD was unable to send representatives to the meetings of the Special Committee against Apartheid. It was planned to send representatives to attend those meetings, but on several occasions, at the last minute, the organization was unable to be physically present. That did not prevent IUYCD from including in the agenda of our own regular meetings discussion on the problem of apartheid in South Africa, or from expressing the required solidarity with those who are fighting that unjust system.

Annex

GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPLETION OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS

Quadrennial report of activities for the period 1986-1989: Memorandum from the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organization Unit/OUSG/DIESA addressed to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II, and dated 15 December 1989

1. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), non-governmental organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year, a brief report of their activities, especially as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations.

2. Your organization is due to submit a report for the period 1986-1989 to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its next session to be held in early 1991. In order to allow sufficient time for reproduction and advance circulation to the Committee, the report should be submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit (DIESA) no later than 1 May 1990.

3. I should like to recall that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its 1981 session decided that "quadrennial reports to be submitted by non-governmental organizations for its session should be limited to no more than two pages single spaced". Furthermore, the Committee, at its 1989 session, stressed the need for non-governmental organizations' required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization. You will find in the attached annex some broad guidelines regarding the format and contents of the report.

4. The submission of the quadrennial reports provide an opportunity for non-governmental organizations to make their activities in support of the United Nations more widely known to Member States. In preparing the report, your main concern should be to reflect accurately the activities of your organization as they relate to the work of the United Nations.

5. I should like to emphasize that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), organizations which fail to submit their report on time or to present satisfactory information may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of their consultative status or reclassification.

6. I look forward to receiving by 1 May 1990 your report covering your activities for the years 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989.

* * *

Address: Non-Governmental Organizations Unit/DIESA
United Nations, DC2-2340
New York, N.Y. 10017

Telephone: (212) 963-4842/4843

Cable Address: UNATIONS NEWYORK (USA)

Telex No.: 422 311 (Answer back: 422 311 UN UI)

Fax No.: (212) 963-4324 NEW YORK (USA)

Guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports

I. Format:

Pursuant to a decision of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its 1981 session, the quadrennial reports to be submitted by the non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two pages single spaced. Please note that any report exceeding this limit will not be accepted. It should be submitted either in English, French or Spanish.

Please submit four copies typed in double space (no more than four pages) to:

The Chief
Non-Governmental Organizations Unit/DIESA
United Nations - Room DC2-2340
New York, N.Y. 10017

The report should cover the activities of your organization for the years 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 and should contain all relevant information without referring to annexes. However, any relevant publications sent to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit will be made available to the States members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

II. Content:

Name of the Organization: (Centred in capital letters).

Text (double spaced, no more than four pages).

1. Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purpose of the organization. (Please indicate, if appropriate, (i) any increase in geographical membership; (ii) any substantial changes in sources of funding.)

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings (through: attendance at meetings, oral statements, written statements). (Please indicate title of meeting, date and place, and for oral/written statements, item or subject.)

3. Co-operation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

4. Other relevant activities:

(i) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions (i.e., action at international, regional or national levels);

(ii) Consultations and co-operation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat;

(iii) Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat;

(iv) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

III. Editorial suggestions:

1. Since the report is to be no longer than two pages single spaced in document form, please summarize concisely the extent and nature of your activities. The report should be submitted double spaced (no more than four pages) for editorial purposes.

2. All reports should be drafted using the third person, i.e., "The organization's representative attended ..." or "The Executive Director attended ..." and NOT "I attended ..." OR "Mr. Smith attended ...".

3. Reference to United Nations documents or publications should accurately indicate the relevant symbol numbers. Quotations should be carefully referenced.

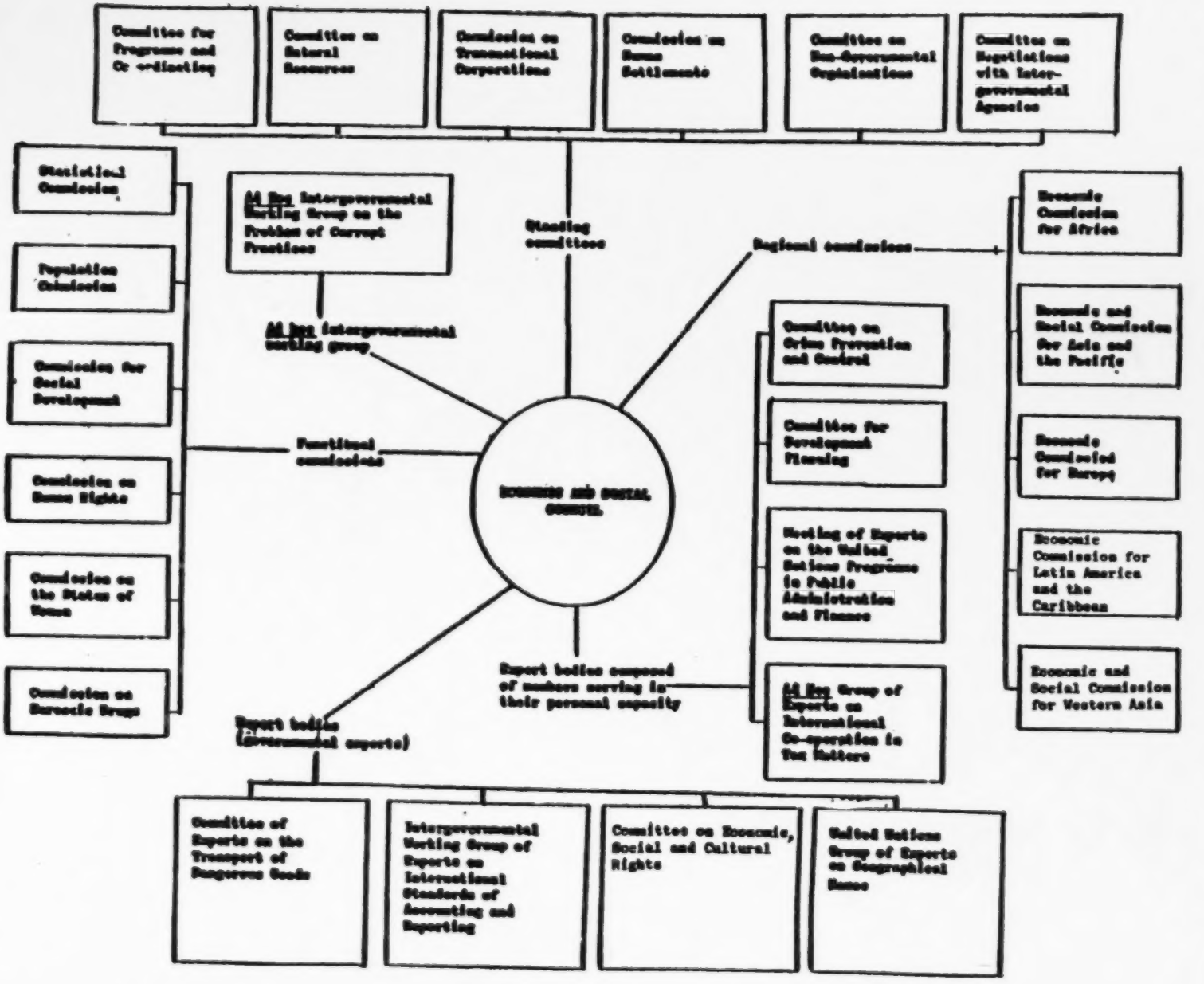
4. Give all language versions, when available, of all references to titles of organizations, publications, newsletters, magazines, etc.

5. Do not use acronyms without spelling out first titles or organizations' names. However, acronyms may be used to designate United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, i.e., UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, etc. In referring to United Nations bodies, please give accurate names, i.e., Commission on Human Rights and NOT Human Rights Commission.

6. Please indicate name and title of persons submitting the report at lower bottom line of last page of report.

7. Please submit report no later than 1 May 1990. We would, however, very much appreciate if you could submit your report earlier.

8. You are encouraged to attach copies of your publications for 1986-1989, especially those which contain articles or information regarding the United Nations.


Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
Committee on Natural Resources
Commission on Transnational Corporations
Commission on Human Settlements
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
Committee on Negotiations with Inter-governmental Agencies
Statistical Commission
Population Commission
Commission for Social Development
Commission on Human Rights
Commission on the Status of Women
Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices
Ad hoc intergovernmental working group
Standing committees
Functional commissions
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Regional commissions
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Committee on Crime Prevention and Control
Committee for Development Planning
Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters
Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity
Expert bodies (intergovernmental experts)
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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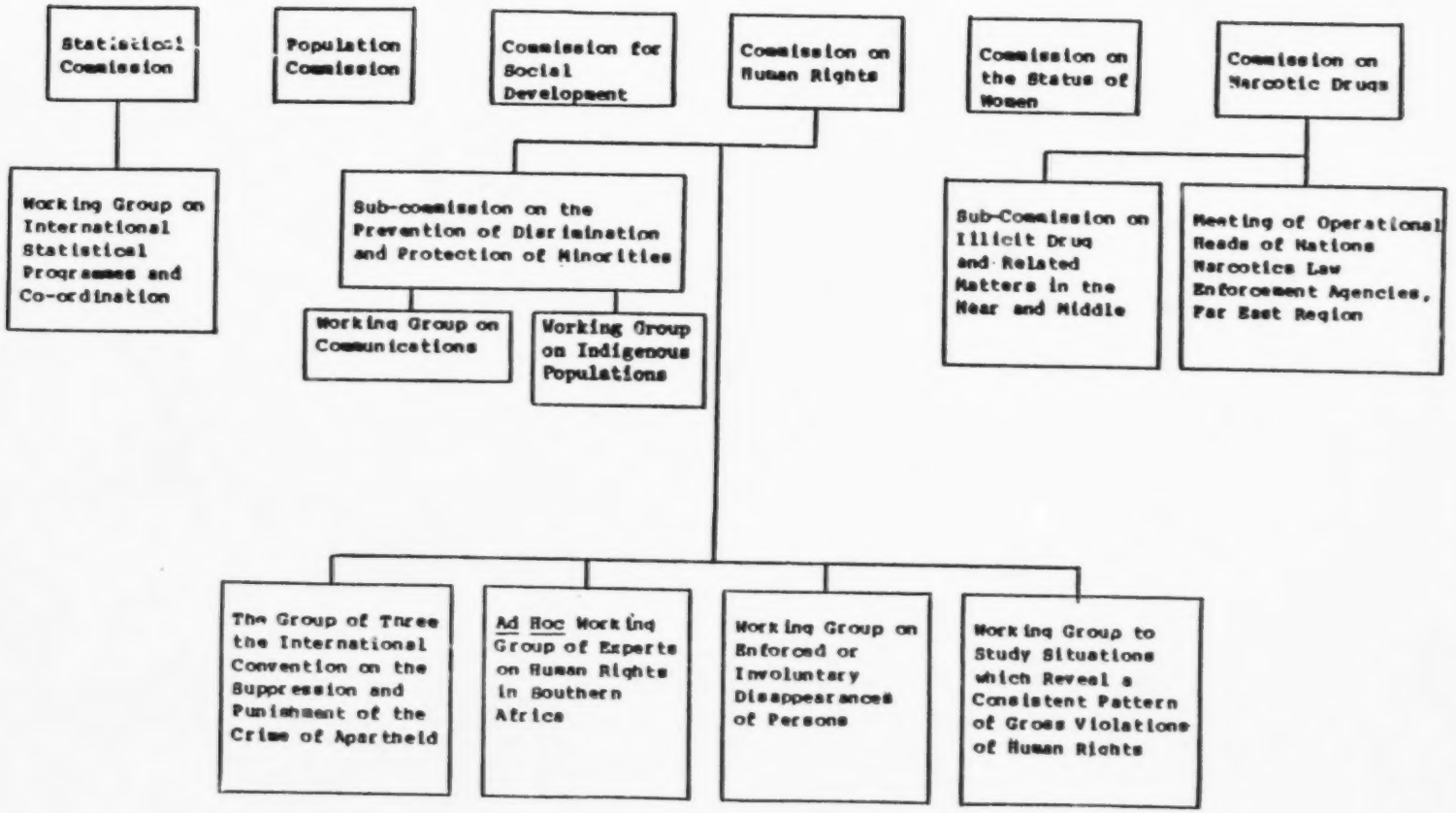
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Functional commissions


Statistical Commission
Population Commission
Commission for Social Development
Commission on Human Rights
Commission on the Status of Women
Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
Sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
Working Group on Communications
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug and Related Matters in the Near and Middle
Meeting of Operational Heads of Nations Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies, Far East Region
The Group of Three the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Human Rights in Southern Africa
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of Persons
Working Group to Study Situations which Reveal a Consistent Pattern of Gross Violations of Human Rights

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

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E/C.2/1991/3/Add.1
5 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
21 January-1 February 1991
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1984-1987

Report submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

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* E/C.2/1991/1.

Note

The reports reproduced below, which were due in 1989, were submitted too late for examination by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its 1989 session.

The reports are therefore submitted for consideration by the Committee at its current session.

CONTENTS

	Page
NOTE	2
1. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES	4
2. COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE NATIONAL SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS	5
3. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	8
4. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL	12
5. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW	14

1. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

(Category II)

1. The Conference of European Churches (CEC) has a total of 120 member churches in every country in Europe (except Albania), representing more than 200 million Christians. During the period under review, CEC has continued its involvement with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations. The period 1984-1987 was devoted, particularly in the first half, to the preparation of the ninth General Assembly of CEC, which was held in Stirling, Scotland, under the theme "Glory to God and Peace on Earth".

2. During the period of preparation, the focus of attention was "Peace" and the efforts of United Nations, intergovernmental and NGO activities in that field. In particular, the CEC Study Secretary, Professor Popescu, participated in NGO meetings in preparation for the International Year of Peace. CEC publications for its 1986 General Assembly carried the logo United Nations International Year for Peace. The staff of CEC attended several other United Nations meetings at Vienna and Geneva related to Palestine, especially those meetings related to global security in the 1980s.

3. The Conference of European Churches co-operates closely with the World Council of Churches, which, through its Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (WCC/CCIA), monitors and participates in the work of the United Nations in New York and Geneva. Similarly, the work of the United Nations at Vienna is being followed through the Salvation Army, a member church of CEC. Representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Salvation Army keep CEC informed, which is extremely valuable as the present limited staff of CEC would not be able to attend all meetings open to NGOs.

4. The Conference of European Churches has also been closely associated with the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Helsinki Process), through its Churches Human Rights Programme, for the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. Contacts are being maintained with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at Geneva.

5. The second half of the period under review was the period of preparation for the European Ecumenical Assembly, Peace with Justice, which was held in May 1989. Throughout 1987 member churches were involved with preparations for their participation in that historic event.

6. Following the 1986 General Assembly and the change of General Secretary early in 1987, new staff structures were established, which enable closer co-operation with NGOs and the United Nations system. In particular, a secretariat for Peace, Justice and Human Rights was opened at the Geneva office under the leadership of Reverend José Leite. In September 1987, CEC was awarded the "Peace Messenger" certificate.

7. The Conference of European Churches participates regularly in the activities of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

2. COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE NATIONAL SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(Category II)

A. Consultative and substantive activities

1. Brief outline of the substantive contribution made by the organization to the Economic and Social Council and/or its subsidiary bodies through oral and written statements

1. It has not been found necessary to submit oral or written statements to the Economic and Social Council or to subsidiary bodies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) or the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

2. Consultations with members of these bodies or with the secretariat

2. The Council of European and Japanese National Shipowners' Associations (CENSA) has primarily been involved with the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, namely, UNCTAD and ESCAP.

3. The secretariat of CENSA has had a good working relationship with the Shipping Division of UNCTAD and with ESCAP as a result of contacts with the officer-in-charge of the Shipping Division, the executive head of the ESCAP Shipping Section and other officials in both organizations. These relationships have continued during the past four years.

4. During the period, CENSA has made contacts with the UNCTAD staff when representatives have attended meetings on shipping at Geneva. In addition, liaison is conducted sur place, when necessary, through the offices of a constituent member line in Geneva.

5. Because of the distance and time factor involved, CENSA has established arrangements with a shipping line serving Bangkok for its local manager to make liaison between CENSA and the ESCAP secretariat. However, the CENSA secretariat in London has met with ESCAP officials during overseas missions by the latter.

3. Participation in, and activities at, conferences sponsored by the United Nations and other meetings

6. Since the second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in 1964, CENSA has been involved with the substantive issues under consideration in that forum. Since 1972, this has been on the basis of its consultative status with UNCTAD in special category. CENSA has participated in the work of UNCTAD at the levels of the quadrennial conference, in its Committee on Shipping at Geneva, in expert groups established by the Committee, and in diplomatic conferences which have been serviced by the UNCTAD secretariat.

7. Although CENSA participated as an observer in the sixth session of UNCTAD at Belgrade in 1983, when shipping questions of major importance were included in the agenda, there were no shipping issues for consideration during the seventh session at Geneva. CENSA has attended as an observer the periodic meetings of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

8. Since the first special session of the Committee on Shipping, held in 1966, CENSA has participated as an observer. CENSA has attended all meetings of this committee, including the third special session in June 1981, which dealt with conditions for the registration of ships, first, at the special invitation of the UNCTAD secretariat, and since 1974 as a non-governmental organization having consultative status in special category. During the period under review, CENSA attended the eleventh session in 1984, the twelfth session in 1986 and the thirteenth session in 1988.

9. As to diplomatic conferences, CENSA participated in all the sessions of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Conditions for the Registration of Ships, which concluded its work in January 1986. CENSA also participated as an observer in the first session of the United Nations Liner Code Review Conference held in 1988.

10. CENSA participated as an observer in sessions of the Group of Experts on Model Rules for Multimodal Container Tariffs in 1984 and in the Group of Experts on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries in Shipping, Ports and Multimodal Transport in 1989.

4. Preparation of papers and other materials at the request of the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and/or secretariat

11. To date, CENSA has not received any such request from the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies or its secretariat.

5. Other examples of constituent and substantive activities, including field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship meetings etc.

12. Although CENSA is not in the position to provide financial or technical assistance, its constituents have co-operated in finding suitable shipowner representatives with the relevant expertise to present papers at seminars, etc., in particular, the workshops sponsored by the Ship Users' Co-operative Programme of ESCAP.

13. Also, CENSA has on several occasions assisted the secretariat of the Shipping Division of UNCTAD in informal consultations on practical shipping issues.

B. Information activities in support of the United Nations

14. Information on the work of United Nations bodies having a bearing on shipping is regularly disseminated among the CENSA constituent national associations and committees, as and when they arise.

15. The only formal activity of CENSA in this context is the publication of an Information Bulletin, which reports on the entire range of shipping questions of interest to CENSA, including the various shipping issues under consideration within the United Nations. The distribution for this Bulletin is much wider than the normal distribution of CENSA to constituents and includes government departments, as well as shipowner organizations and shipowners, from developed and developing countries.

3. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Association internationale pour la liberté religieuse

Asociación Internacional para la Libertad de Religión

(Category II)

1. The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is an international non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It is also in consultative status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). With the exception of Latin America, IARF has member groups in all areas of the world, including Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. IARF is an interreligious and intercultural organization, which seeks to advance dialogue and understanding and the building of a global community of mutual co-operation and justice, working through conferences, cross-cultural exchanges and social service projects.

A. Consultative and substantive activities

2. IARF involvement with the United Nations is broad and general, touching on several areas, especially disarmament, human rights and environmental concerns. IARF representatives and alternate representatives work on a regular basis with other non-governmental organizations at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

3. An IARF representative was active in the preparation for the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Presidents of two IARF member groups, speaking on behalf of IARF as well as the Unitarian Universalist Association (North America) and the Rissho Kosei-kai (Japan), addressed the special session (A/S-15/AC.1/PV.5). A written statement was also submitted by IARF to the special session, calling specifically for the reduction of strategic missiles and conventional weapons, freezing and reducing military expenditures and a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

1. Disarmament and development

4. IARF representatives took part in the NGO task force related to the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987. A written statement endorsing the principles and goals of the Conference was prepared.

2. International Year of Peace

5. At its 1984 Triennial Congress, IARF endorsed several United Nations programmes. Member groups were urged to observe the International Year of Peace (IYP) and to encourage Governments to make the United Nations an effective instrument for peace. IARF member groups gave active support to IYP, and three of them - the Dayemi Complex (Bangladesh), the Rissho Kosei-kai (Japan) and the Unitarian Univeralist United Nations Office (Canada/USA) - were honoured by receiving the Peace Messenger Award.

3. United Nations Decade for Women

6. IARF was represented by three observers at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. A written statement (in English, French and Spanish) was submitted by IARF as a background document under rule 62 (A/CONF.116/NGO/14). An IARF observer made an oral presentation to the Conference.

4. Drug abuse

7. The observer of IARF at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987, was a former Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

5. Population

8. Two IARF observers participated in the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City from 6 to 14 August 1984.

6. UNICEF exhibition

9. IARF was one of 17 international service organizations mounting exhibits in the visitors' lobby of United Nations Headquarters on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of UNICEF. The exhibit theme was "Working Together for Children". The IARF exhibit included photographs of the Khasi Village Education Project and the Arapanch Village Rural Development Project (India), the Negros Fishery Development Project (Philippines) and work in Guatemalan villages.

7. International Youth Year

10. IARF member groups shared in the International Tree Project, particularly through their clearing-house in Tokaiso, Japan.

8. Human rights

11. IARF joined three other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II, in a statement addressed to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in 1987 (E/C.2/1987/NGO/1), expressing concern that valuable resources were being withheld from the United Nations because of deferred or postponed consideration of applications of at least 11 non-governmental organizations with special interest in human rights. IARF joined other organizations in observing the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1988.

B. Informational activities

12. The 1984 and 1987 Triennial Congresses of IARF included discussions and passed resolutions in support of the United Nations. The 1984 Congress statement mentioned the United Nations several times, specifically endorsing the International Year of Peace and the World Disarmament Campaign. The 1987 Congress statement urged that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights instruments arising from the Declaration be used as bases for action, and that the United Nations designate an International Year of Religious Tolerance and Understanding as a means of acting on the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, which was adopted by the General Assembly, without a vote, on 25 November 1981 (Assembly resolution 36/55).

1. International Literacy Year

13. The International Association of Liberal Religious Women, a member group of IARF, continues to expand its literacy for women projects in several locations in India. Each centre provides not only literacy training, but also health care and training in such income-generating activities as fruit processing, spice-making, weaving and sewing.

2. IARF Social Service Network

14. IARF social service has developed from emergency relief into the currently operating Social Service Network, which includes 50 projects in eight countries. While IARF is not a major aid agency, its projects (in Africa, Bangladesh, Eastern Europe, India, Northern Ireland and the Philippines) include a wide variety of educational, health, economic development, water supply, reforestation and activities concerning children, youth and women.

3. IARF informational activities at United Nations Headquarters

15. Two conferences, open to IARF members, are held in New York each year. Every November, 25 secondary school-age youth are chosen to attend a Youth Conference on Disarmament. A representative of the World Disarmament Campaign is always one of the major speakers. Every April, a seminar on a major United Nations issue (disarmament, human rights, United Nations agencies etc.) attracts about 150 participants. A newsletter is published regularly. Both the newsletter and the April seminar are based on major United Nations events (e.g., the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development, the special session on disarmament).

16. In 1985, during International Youth Year, a special (and successful) effort was made to attract young participants to the April seminar. During that year, 25 North American youth took part in a youth tour of the Soviet Union led by the IARF representative.

4. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

(Category II)

1. The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) has participated consistently in sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, since attaining consultative status in 1977. IITC has continued to present the concerns and interests of indigenous peoples to the Working Group of Indigenous Populations at Geneva, since the Working Group was established in 1982.

2. In 1985, IITC, together with the Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Indian Congress, participated in a conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Indigenous peoples from many parts of the world came to encourage OAS to begin to take a closer look at the critical and special problems faced on a daily basis by Indian communities throughout the Americas.

3. Of particular interest to IITC is the consideration given by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to revise the only existing convention with reference to indigenous and tribal peoples, Convention No. 107, which was adopted in 1957. Although the now revised Convention (No. 169), adopted by ILO at the June 1989 conference, did not go far enough with respect to the rights of Indian peoples, IITC is satisfied with the outcome and acknowledges the fact that the specialized agency has taken a step towards the acknowledgement of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. IITC has been in communication and attended meetings with representatives of ILO each year while in Geneva, not only to assist in expressing the views of indigenous communities, but also in an effort to sensitize the ILO staff about values, attitudes and traditions from the IITC point of view.

4. In the broader picture concerning Indian country, IITC has attempted to work with Indian nations and governments in efforts to bring about peace, particularly in those areas in which wars, revolutions and national liberations have affected the lives of Indian nations. To that end, IITC has travelled to, and maintains dialogue in, the following regions:

(a) El Salvador: With the Asociación Nacional Indígena Salvadorean (ANIS), attended cultural and civil conferences for IITC documentation;

(b) Guatemala: With the Comité Unidad Campesino (CUC), an IITC delegation inspected refugee camps, and in Mexico, gathered testimony and documents;

(c) Nicaragua: Along with the Miskitu and the Sandinista Government, IITC sought peace in the repatriation and reunification of families within Nicaraguan society;

(d) Costa Rica: IITC representatives attended a conference on the environment, furthering IITC participation with UNEP, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the World Wildlife Fund, towards developing an Indian world conservation strategy. IITC continues to emphasize the importance of merging issues of human rights and the environment;

(e) North America and the Pacific Islands: IITC addressed the following issues before the United Nations, the specialized agencies and international forums:

(i) Canada, Lubicon Lake, sovereignty rights;

(ii) Big Mountain, Arizona, forced relocation;

(iii) Alaska, Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act;

(iv) Washington, fishing rights; traditional subsistence, and political prisoner Mr. Sohappy;

(v) Black Hills, South Dakota, enforcement of treaty of Fort Laramie, 1868;

(vi) Hawaii, bombing of sacred Island Kaho'olawe and desecration of Pele;

(vii) Aotearoa, New Zealand, Maori peoples and the Waitangi Treaty of 1848;

(viii) Political prisoner Leonard Peltier, seeking his release in the United States for false evidence.

(f) Treaty investigation: IITC representatives have continued to push for the United Nations to conduct a study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between Indians and States/nations.

5. IITC has steadily increased its role and participation within the United Nations, especially in the Commission on Human Rights.

6. IITC continues to publish its quarterly international newsletter, Treaty Council News, disseminating information on United Nations resolutions, evolving standards, treaties and cultural, spiritual and hunting and fishing rights.

7. Key to the success of IITC in gathering information and documentation on Indian issues has been the annual international Indian Treaty Council conferences held in various regions of the Americas. In 1987, the international conference was held at Celilo Falls, Washington, with over 300 indigenous peoples representing 98 nations.

5. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Institut international de droit humanitaire

(Category II)

A. Courses on international refugee law

1. Courses on international refugee law, organized annually since 1982, are specifically intended for government officials dealing with refugee matters (admission, definition of status, protection and assistance, solutions). The programme is organized in collaboration with and under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The courses aim to promote the widest possible application of existing international law through dissemination of its knowledge among those directly responsible.

2. This programme was suspended in 1985 and 1986 for lack of necessary funds. It was resumed in 1987.

3. Participants in the third (1984) and fourth (1987) courses totalled 61 from 41 countries. A sufficient number of participants from developing countries was assured by covering the travel and accommodation expenses of about half of the participants.

B. Congress on Peace and Humanitarian Actions

4. As its contribution towards the celebration of the International Year of Peace, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) organized a Congress on Peace and Humanitarian Actions in San Remo from 3 to 6 September 1986. The Congress, which was included in the official calendar of the International Year of Peace (A/40/669), recorded the participation of political figures, diplomats, scholars and experts from more than 40 countries, along with the representatives of major intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement.

5. The aim of the Congress was to help the various bodies (international, non-governmental and governmental) involved in humanitarian activities to reflect upon their contribution to the promotion and maintenance of peace and to gain better insight into future prospects for humanitarian action.

C. Round tables on international humanitarian law

6. Since 1974, IIHL has organized annual round tables on current problems of international humanitarian law where an open and informal dialogue among experts from Governments, international organizations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, humanitarian non-governmental bodies and individual experts has now become a tradition. A Red Cross symposium, in collaboration with the International Red Cross, and a Refugee Day, in collaboration with UNHCR, are integral parts of the programme of each round table.

7. The tenth round table, in 1984, dealt with possible developments in international humanitarian law with respect to naval warfare and neutrality, as well as a wide range of issues concerning the implementation of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Convention of 1949. Moreover, part of the debate was devoted to the protection of refugees.

8. The eleventh round table, in 1985, had on its agenda such problematic areas as the movements of refugees, guerrilla warfare, terrorism and international humanitarian law, and the protection of the child.

9. The twelfth round table, in 1987, focused on problems relevant to the effective implementation of humanitarian rules, 10 years after the adoption of the two additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Convention.

D. Various meetings of experts

1. Seminar on asylum and refugee law in Arab countries

10. The meeting of Arab experts, held in San Remo in 1984, was organized in collaboration with UNHCR and examined problems regarding asylum and the application of refugee law in Arab countries. After underlining the Arab-Islamic ancestral traditions of asylum, the experts discussed the position of asylum-seekers, in particular Palestinians, in the Arab world, with reference to the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

2. Seminars of experts from European socialist countries

11. A series of annual seminars of experts from European socialist countries began in San Remo in 1984 and continued in Budapest in 1985, Prague in 1986, and Moscow in 1987. The seminars aimed at discussing new trends and issues of humanitarian law in the contemporary world, including refugee law and human rights. Each seminar was organized in collaboration with the national Red Cross society and national academic institutions, under the auspices of UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

3. Meeting on fundamental human rights

12. The purpose of the meeting, which was held at San Remo in 1984, was to discuss the formulation of some basic principles drawn from various branches of international law in order to render the protection of the human being more general and effective. Experts from international organizations such as the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration, ICRC and the League of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies attended the meeting.

4. Working group on the treatment of refugees

13. The working group, convened at Florence in 1984 under the auspices of UNHCR, dealt in particular with the problem of detention. It considered as fundamental the principle that entry in search of refuge should not be considered an unlawful act nor should it justify the deprivation of freedom. Refugees should have the right to a proper trial and to the protection of the law. The conditions of detention should in no case fall below the UNHCR basic minimum standards for the protection of asylum-seekers in situations of mass influx.

5. Round table on voluntary repatriation

14. Voluntary repatriation, as the most humanitarian and most suitable solution to the world refugee problem, was the subject of a meeting held at San Remo in 1985 as a result of the joint initiative of UNHCR and the Institute. The responsibility of UNHCR to promote conditions for repatriation and to ensure its execution always respecting the safety and the dignity of the repatriate was emphasized. The conclusions proposed by the experts were later adopted by the UNHCR Executive Committee and the United Nations General Assembly.

6. Colloquy on the promotion and dissemination of fundamental humanitarian principles

15. The meeting, held in Monaco in 1985, discussed denominators common to different branches of international law aimed at the protection of the human being, in order to render it more general and effective. The agenda specifically dealt with the principles and rules applicable to the promotion and dissemination of human rights, international humanitarian law, refugee law, migration law and relief law. Representatives of the Centre for Human Rights, ICRC, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration and UNHCR, as well as other competent organizations, attended.

7. Seminar on national information bureaux

16. The main problems concerning the organization and the running of national information and research bureaux were discussed at a seminar held at Stockholm in 1986, in co-operation with the Swedish Commission on National Information Bureaux. The seminar was attended by experts from 16 Red Cross societies and representatives of ICRC and the League, as well as UNHCR.

8. Symposium on international protection of cultural property

17. The symposium was convened at Florence in 1984 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts, in co-operation with UNESCO and ICRC.

9. Round table of experts on family reunification

18. During the round table held at Florence in 1986, the question of family reunification was discussed in a broad context, with reference to all categories of people affected by family separation, including refugees, migrants, victims of armed conflicts, asylum-seekers and other displaced persons.

10. Round table on the status of personnel and volunteers of international and national organizations in humanitarian actions

19. At the round table held in Monaco in 1987, the status of personnel and volunteers of international and national organizations in humanitarian actions was examined with reference to both armed conflicts and peace-time situations, especially those involving natural disasters. The limitations of existing legal instruments and procedures for assuring the protection of people involved in humanitarian actions were stressed. It was agreed that effective protection could be guaranteed only where the humanitarian action was carried out with full respect for the necessary conditions of impartiality and neutrality. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was represented at the meeting.

E. "Peace Messenger" award

20. In 1987, in acknowledgement of its contribution to the programme and objectives of the International Year of Peace, Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar awarded IIHL the title of "Peace Messenger".

F. Publications

21. A large amount of information on United Nations activities was contained in IIHL publications during the period 1984-1987, particularly in its Yearbook. Articles appearing in the Yearbook include "A new international humanitarian order", "Human rights and massive exoduses", "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees", and "Rescue at sea", in the 1984 Yearbook; "Voluntary repatriation: recent developments", "Declaration of basic principles of justice", "UN standard minimum rules for the administration of juvenile justice" and "The UN Convention against torture", in the 1985 Yearbook; "The protection of migrant workers and international labour standards", in the 1986/87 Yearbook. Many official United Nations documents were also reported in full.